

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

- Claims 1-39 are pending.
- The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-39.
- Claims 1, 10, 21, and 31 have been amended.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-15, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. section 102(e) as being anticipated by Panagiotou et al. (US 6,143,370). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Examiner states that Panagiotou et al. “discloses a process comprising inserting an implantable medical device into a chamber, adjusting the pressure of the chamber to less than ambient pressure.” Claims 1 and 10 recite the feature “adjusting the pressure of the chamber to a pressure greater than ambient pressure.” Panagiotou et al. do not teach or suggest the above-mentioned feature. Therefore, Claims 1 and 10 are patentably allowable. Claims 2, 4-6, and 8-9 depend from Claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reason that Claim 1 is allowable. Claims 11, 13-15, and 17-20 depend from Claim 10 and are allowable for at least the same reason that Claim 10 is allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests removal of the rejections of Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-15, and 17-20.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 3, 7, 12, 16, and 21-39 under 35 U.S.C. section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panagiotou et al. (US 6,143,370) in view of Ding et al. (US 5,837,313). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As indicated above, Claims 1 and 10 are patentably allowable over Panagiotou et al. Ding et al. fail to cure the deficiency of Panagiotou et al. with respect to Claims 1 and 10. Thus, Claims 1 and 10 are patentably allowable over Panagiotou et al. in view of Ding et al. Claims 3 and 7 depend from Claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reason as that Claim 1 is allowable. Claims 12 and 16 depend from Claim 10 and are allowable for at least the same reason that that Claim 10 is allowable.

Claims 21 and 31 recite the feature "adjusting the pressure of the chamber to a pressure greater than ambient pressure." As indicated above, Panagiotou et al. do not teach or suggest the above-mentioned feature. Ding et al. fail to cure the deficiency of Panagiotou et al. with respect to Claims 21 and 31. Thus, Claims 21 and 31 are patentably allowable over Panagiotou et al. in view of Ding et al. Claims 3 and 7 depend from Claim 21 and are allowable for at least the same reason that that Claim 21 is allowable. Claims 12 and 16 depend from Claim 31 and are allowable for at least the same reason as that Claim 31 is allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests removal of the rejections of Claims 3, 7, 12, 16, and 21-39.

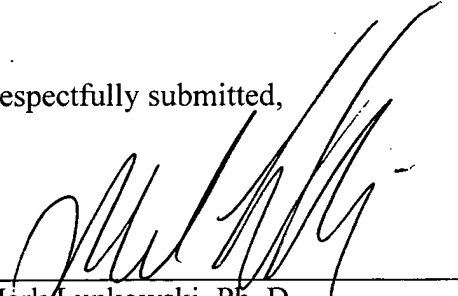
Since all claims are allowable, please issue a Notice of Allowability directed at these claims.

If I can be of any help, please contact me.

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